

**Lalit K. Jha**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/227155\\_US-body-puts-India-under--Watch-List--on-religious-freedom](http://www.ptinews.com/news/227155_US-body-puts-India-under--Watch-List--on-religious-freedom)

Washington, Aug 13 (PTI) The **US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** has placed India on its 'Watch List' for New Delhi's largely inadequate response in protecting its religious minorities.

In a statement, **USCIRF** said India earned the 'Watch List' designation due to the 'disturbing increase' in communal violence against religious minorities - specifically Christians in eastern Indian state Orissa in 2008 and Muslims in western Indian state of Gujarat in 2002 - and the largely inadequate response from the Indian government to protect the rights of religious minorities.